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influences. The mortality in infants from tuberculosis was 2.39 per thousand births, much the lowest on record.

#### WAR COMMITTEE OF TECHNICAL SOCIETIES

THERE has been organized a war committee of technical societies consisting of the following members: American Society of Civil Engineers, Nelson P. Lewis, Major James M. Boyle; American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Harold W. Buck, Dr. A. S. McAllister; American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Professor A. M. Greene, Jr., R. N. Inglis; American Institute of Mining Engineers, David W. Brunton, Edmund B. Kirby; American Gas Institute, Dana D. Barnum, E. C. Uhlig; American Electrochemical Society, Joseph Bijur, Dr. Chas. A. Doremus; Illuminating Engineering Society, Louis B. Marks, Preston S. Millar; Mining and Metallurgical Society of America, Christopher R. Corning, George C. Stone; American Society of Refrigerating Engineers, Henry Torrance, F. E. Matthews; American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Dr. Chas. F. McKenna, Frank E. Dodge.

The chairman, D. W. Brunton, has addressed the following letter:

The men who, at the call of patriotism and duty, have joined the colors, are not only risking their lives, but are cheerfully sacrificing their careers and in many instances their financial interests to protect the honor of the nation. It, therefore, becomes the duty of those of us who, for various reasons, are unable to enlist, to do something more than our share in keeping the machinery of industry moving.

Other wars have been fought only on land and sea, but in this conflict the combatant areas have been greatly extended by the advent of submarines, flying machines and even subterranean warfare. In previous wars the armies and navies of belligerents were practically the only forces engaged; in this war the full economic strength of nations is drawn into the contest and every branch of scientific and industrial effort is taxed to the utmost.

Intensifying production and conserving the supply of food and clothing constitute service within the reach of all, but the engineers, electricians and chemists of this country can go a step further and utilize their technical training to de-

velop such new devices and improvements, equipment and methods as will give our Army and Navy that superiority which will assure victory.

Inventive talent in this country is by no means confined to the membership of our societies; members who have employees or acquaintances of an originaive turn of mind should make an effort to stimulate that most useful talent by passing on to such persons the bulletins as they are received, and also by calling attention to the numerous ably written articles on the mechanical phases of the war, published in technical and popular magazines.

In the world-conflict which is going on to-day the three dominating factors, the submarine, the automatic machine gun and the flying machine, are all American inventions. This nation is still in its youth and can therefore be expected to do in future still greater things than it has done in the past. War is a new occupation to us, but under the stimulus and pressure of its necessity, we should advance as far in the arts of war during the next two years as we normally would in twenty.

Some of the civilian engineers of this country are now rendering great service to the government through the agencies of the Council of National Defense, the Naval Consulting Board, the National Research Council and their numerous auxiliary committees, but unfortunately only a small proportion of the technical men of this country are so situated that they can go to Washington and engage in this service; therefore, some means of utilizing the patriotism and originaive thought of our members had to be devised.

For this purpose the War Committee of Technical Societies has been organized, and it hopes to give the members of the technical societies who are obliged to stay at home, an opportunity to use their inventive talent and technical training in the study of the varied problems which arise in the preparation for and prosecution of the war—thus making valuable contributions to the national cause.

The greatest care will be taken to discover and utilize everything of value that may inhere in suggestions and inventions submitted. Not only will they receive studious examination, but when necessary, trials and experiments will be conducted. All inventions which have successfully passed the necessary examinations and tests are turned over to the particular department of the Army and Navy Service where they may be most profitably utilized.

D. W. BRUNTON,  
*Chairman*